



How to Replace Cracked Tile

Tile can crack due to shifting foundation or a large force, leading to potential issues if left alone. Rather than replacing the entire floor, we outline the steps to remove and replace a single tile.

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INTRODUCTION

Cracked tile can be unsightly and can lead to larger foundation issues in the long run, but replacing a broken tile can be a simple and straightforward fix. After finding matching tile and grout, the replacement will be all but unnoticeable.



TOOLS:

- [Tile](#) (1)

Of same size and similar style as existing tile

- [Tile Adhesive](#) (1)

- [Grout](#) (1)

Of same or similar color as existing grout

- [Tile Trowel](#) (1)

- [Painter's Tool or Stiff Putty Knife](#) (1)

- [Hammer](#) (1)

Optional


- [Heavy Duty Gloves](#) (1)

- [Moist Sponge or Old Rag](#) (1)
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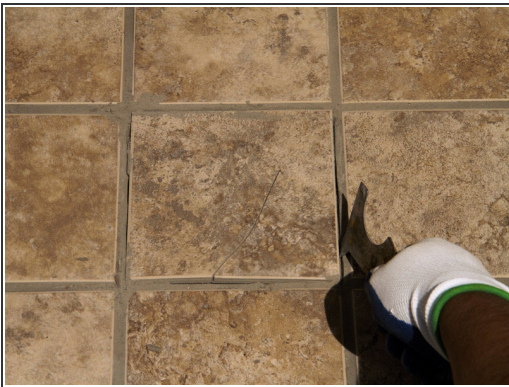
Step 1 — Cracked Tile




- Use a painter's tool or putty knife to remove the grout from around the cracked tile.
- Using an edge or corner of your painter's tool or putty knife, scrape the grout along the perimeter of the broken tile.

 Be careful not to crack or scratch surrounding tiles.

Step 2




- Use the painter's tool or putty knife to pry up the broken tile.
- If the tile does not lift, place an old rag over the tile and use the hammer to break the tile into smaller pieces.

 Avoid using surrounding tile as leverage and be precise and careful while using the hammer.

Step 3




- Remove the broken pieces of tile, using gloved hands for large pieces or a broom for smaller shards.
- Using the painter's tool or putty knife, scrape the grout from the edges of tile and any adhesive from under the tile.

 Be careful of sharp shards of tile.

Step 4




- Apply new adhesive using the trowel, making sure the adhesive is spread evenly.
- Drag the toothed end of the trowel across the adhesive to create even rows.

 Quickly remove any adhesive from the surrounding tiles using a wet sponge or old rag, working quickly as the adhesive will begin to dry.

Step 5



- Place the new tile down in the center of the empty space.
 - If available, use tile spacers to ensure proper placement.
 - Allow the adhesive to dry based on the instructions provided on the product.
-  During this time, prevent foot traffic on the new tile.

Step 6



- After the adhesive has dried, add water to a small amount of grout until it's the consistency of toothpaste.
- Fill in the area around the new tile, making sure the new grout matches the height of the surrounding grout.
- Use a moist sponge to wipe diagonally across the tile, cleaning off excess grout after each wipe.

Step 7



- If any bubbles or gaps form in the grout while removing excess, add more grout and repeat the cleaning process.
- Wait and allow grout to dry for several hours.

 Keep foot traffic away from the new tile until the grout has had time to dry.

Allow the grout to dry and then resume normal use.

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